



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES

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TREASURER ANGELIDES, LOCAL OFFICIALS DEMONSTRATE NEW COMPUTERIZED TOOL THAT PROMOTES SMART GROWTH FOR THE SACRAMENTO REGION

Treasurer's \$320,000 Grant Helped Launch 'Blueprint' Project for Sacramento Region

SACRAMENTO, CA – State Treasurer Phil Angelides today joined Sacramento area community leaders to demonstrate a new and innovative computerized planning tool that helps design sustainable development and “smart growth” solutions for the region. A critical component of the computer modeling system was paid for with a \$320,000 grant from the Treasurer’s Sustainable Communities Grant and Loan Program to the City of Citrus Heights and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG).

The Treasurer – along with Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo, SACOG Board Chairman and Citrus Heights Mayor Bill Hughes, and SACOG Executive Director Martin Tuttle – demonstrated the planning tool as part of the Sacramento Region “Blueprint” Project, a state-of-the-art approach to planning and developing for sustainable growth in the 21st Century. Angelides and the others participated in a demonstration of the Blueprint Project’s computer modeling system, and also discussed the Project’s extensive public outreach and community involvement program. The news conference was at the Samuel C. Pannell Meadowview Community Center in Sacramento’s Meadowview area.

The innovative tool employs sophisticated mapping software that allows users to enter planning and land-use options into a computer and see immediately the potential results and outcomes of those options. Among other things, users can estimate the transportation, air quality, economic and other effects of current and proposed land-use patterns, and then develop and test alternatives. In SACOG’s case, the \$320,000 grant from the Treasurer’s Sustainable Communities Grant and Loan Program has funded a “redevelopment lands inventory” for the Blueprint Project that helps identify “infill” – vacant or undeveloped parcels –that offer the best potential for redevelopment. The data from the lands inventory will be added to the computer modeling system.

“I applaud SACOG and the City of Citrus Heights for developing this innovative program, which allows them to gather community input and adopt strategies to promote smart growth throughout the Sacramento region,” Angelides said. “It’s encouraging to see first-hand how this Sustainable Communities Grant is helping to provide an important planning tool for the Sacramento region,

making it easier for public and private entities to direct their redevelopment efforts where they are most needed and most likely to be successful.”

In a question-and-answer session with reporters following the demonstration, participants and the news media were invited to visit several potential redevelopment sites on the lands inventory that are located near the Pannell Center.

SACOG’s redevelopment lands inventory allows planners and local governments to identify sites that have the best potential for success with public and/or private investment, and will help SACOG target transportation funds to promote smart growth in the region. SACOG is using the computer modeling system as part of its Sacramento Region Blueprint Project, which will include a series of community planning workshops to be held through the summer. Input gathered through the Project will help local governments, SACOG and SACOG’s community outreach partner – Valley Vision – develop smart growth plans for the region. The six-county SACOG region includes El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties.

“This grant from the Treasurer’s Office is a timely and vital tool in helping the cities of the Sacramento region identify, promote, and encourage infill development in existing cities,” said Mayor Hughes, “and in helping ensure that the region is able to target and direct development to where it is most needed – and is integral to the Sacramento Region Blueprint Project. It is a key component of our efforts to promote sustainability and smart growth in the six-county region.”

Mayor Fargo praised the Treasurer for “helping us find ways to visually allow Sacramento residents to witness the effects of future growth and land-use decisions. These decisions are critical to the health of our neighborhoods and communities throughout the Sacramento region.”

Angelides established the Sustainable Communities Grant and Loan Program in 2002 to help local governments pursue smart growth initiatives. The California Pollution Control Financing Authority administers the Sustainable Communities program; the Treasurer serves as chair of the Authority board. The Authority selected 14 projects for the program from 117 applications submitted by local communities throughout the State. Projects were evaluated based on their ability to promote sustainable development; revitalize economically struggling neighborhoods; incorporate creative approaches; and provide models that can be replicated in other communities.

The Sustainable Communities Grant and Loan Program is one in a series of initiatives launched by Angelides to promote inner city redevelopment, community revitalization and sustainable development practices. These “Double Bottom Line” investment initiatives have directed more than \$12 billion in investment capital – through State programs and the State’s pension and investment funds – to create economic growth and sustainable development in California communities.

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